CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

29 MARCH 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento —Truck Convoy Protesting COVID-19 Mandates Heading to California
(U) A group of truck drivers protesting COVID-19 mandates on roads and highways around the Washington, DC, area in recent weeks will head to California next, an organizer announced Sunday night. During a livestream of the People's Convoy nightly rally Sunday, organizer Mike Landis read a list of measures aimed at controlling COVID-19 in California, The Herald-Mail reported. "I think stopping those is more important at this point in time than getting the emergency declaration repealed because that's already in place and we need to stop stuff like these bills from getting in place," Landis said.
SOURCE: 28 March 2022, KTLA News

(U) Los Angeles — Recent Spike in Crime at Cannabis Dispensaries
(U) In the past four months, there have been more reports of robberies, burglaries, assault with a deadly weapon, and other crimes at LA dispensaries than during any other stretch since cannabis became available for retail sale. In February alone, there were 14 reported crimes, the highest ever since 2018. January had 10 crimes, while November and December had eight each. In previous years, the average monthly number of crimes never reached more than five. As cash-only businesses, cannabis dispensaries are attractive targets for robbery.
SOURCE: 28 March 2022, XTown

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Georgia — Researchers Protecting Solar Technologies from Cyberattack
(U) Athens — New research from the University of Georgia suggests a new approach to safeguarding one possible target of a cyberattack – the nation's solar farms. In a study, a team in UGA's College of Engineering introduced a sensor system that monitors a key electrical component of solar farms for signs of cyber-intrusion in real time. "A growing concern is that hackers may exploit the converters that connect solar farms with the power grid," said WenZhan Song, the study's lead investigator. "In modern grid-connected solar farms, power electronics converters can be remotely controlled, but this internet connection also expands the potential for cyberattacks."
SOURCE: 28 March 2022, Newswise

(U) Massachusetts — Teens Charged in Shooting That Injured Student, Teacher
(U) Boston — Police said two teens have been arrested in connection with a shooting outside a Boston school earlier this month that left a teacher and a 17-year-old student injured. Police in a statement said a 17-year-old suspect was arrested last week in Lynn following a brief foot pursuit. Police say they also recovered two handguns. A 16-year-old suspect turned himself in on Saturday. They face assault and battery with a dangerous weapon as well as firearms charges. A student and a 31-year-old teacher were in the parking lot of TechBoston Academy on 15 March on their way to a basketball game when they were shot.
SOURCE: 28 March 2022, WCVB News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) El Salvador — Nation Proclaims State of Emergency as Homicides Soar
(U) San Salvador — El Salvador's legislative assembly approved a state of emergency law early Sunday to tackle a spiraling homicide rate, driven by gangs Barrio 18 (18th Street) and MS-13, after the country's police forces reported 62 homicides on Saturday. El Salvador has a long history of organized crime groups fighting against security forces and among themselves to control territory and drug routes across Central America.
SOURCE: 28 March 2022, CNN

(U) Nigeria — Terrorists Attack and Disable Train Carrying Passengers
(U) Katari — Suspected bandit terrorists detonated bombs on the track of Abuja-Kaduna train and successfully immobilized it. Sources confirmed the attack, saying the attack occurred at a point between Katari and Rijana. One of the passengers who confirmed the incident in a telephone call said the attackers have surrounded the train, shooting sporadically. There are at least 970 passengers onboard the train, according to official sources familiar with the train service. The Kaduna State government has said the scene of the attack has been taken over by the military.
SOURCE: 29 March 2022, Daily Nigerian

(U) Ukraine — Refugees 'Advertising' Themselves on Social Media Sparks Human Trafficking Fears
(U) Kyiv — Ukrainian refugees desperate to find a safe place to stay in the United Kingdom are 'advertising' themselves on social media pages prompting fears that human traffickers will exploit them and 'shop' for victims. Multiple social media groups have been observed to post photos of women purportedly fleeing conflict and asking for accommodation. With many men staying in Ukraine to fight, most of those looking for homes are vulnerable women and children, who are offering labor such as domestic work in exchange.
SOURCE: 28 March 2022, Daily Record

(U) Ukraine — 'Most Severe' Cyberattack Since Russian Invasion Crashes Ukraine Internet Provider
(U) Kyiv — A "powerful" cyberattack has hit Ukraine's biggest fixed line telecommunications company, Ukrtelecom. Described as the most severe cyberattack since the start of the Russian invasion, it has sent the company's services across the country down. Government officials said it is not yet known whether Ukrtelecom—a telephone, internet, and mobile provider—has been hit by a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack or a deeper, more sophisticated intrusion.
SOURCE: 28 March 2022, Forbes

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.